



Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144

Paul K. Leather
Deputy Commissioner
Tel. 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Higher Education – Higher Education Commission
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2016

A regular meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at 3 Barrell Court, Concord, New Hampshire at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016. The following members were present:

Todd Leach, Chair
Michele Perkins, Vice Chair
Steve Appleby (via telephone)
Donald Birx (via telephone)
Sr. Paula Marie Buley
John Curran
Steven DiSalvo
Susan Dunton
Anne Huot (via telephone)
Scott Kalicki
Peter Koch (via telephone)
Paul LeBlanc (via telephone)
David Mahoney
Eli Rivera
Mark Rubinstein
Lindsay Whaley (via telephone)

The following members were unable to attend:

Virginia Barry
Jim Fitzgerald
Ross Gittell
Mark Huddleston

Chair Leach called the meeting to order and welcomed Susan Dunton, President, NHTI, and Steven DiSalvo, President, Saint Anselm, College.

- 1) Mr. Kalicki moved, seconded by Mr. Curran, to accept the minutes of May 3, 2016. The motion passed without dissent.
- 2) Director MacKay presented the New Hampshire Institute of Art's request to extend degree-granting authority to offer all degrees. The New England Association of Schools and Colleges held a Comprehensive Evaluation in April 2016 and will make a decision at its October or November meeting.

With the New Hampshire Institute of Art's approval expiring December 31, 2016, it was recommended that the Commission vote to extend degree-granting authority until June 30, 2017. Mr. Curran moved, seconded by Mr. Rivera, to accept the recommendation. The motion passed without dissent.

- 3) Director MacKay presented highlights of the Director's Report. Major highlights included:
- a. The upcoming 2017 Legislative Session will include several bills that would impact postsecondary education, namely the creation of a statewide Children's Savings Account Program, and other bills addressing the workforce issue, but as of now there are no LSRs available for public review and analysis.
 - b. The attendance at out-of-state meetings included two New England Board of Higher Education meetings as an ex-officio delegate, one which was related to the Tuition Break program, formerly known as the RSP or Apple Program. There was discussion of possibly expanding that program to invite more participation by private institutions, but no proposal has been prepared.
 - c. The widely adopted National Council – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement has 43 states participating. The Director submitted testimony and participated electronically in a hearing by a Special Commission in Massachusetts established to explore whether the state should join. A decision is expected by October 29, 2016. Seven complaints were filed through NC-SARA with all seven resolved.
 - d. Hellenic American University had a focused visit in early October by Dr. Richard Gustafson and Dr. Robert Henry, and their report with any recommendations will be on the February meeting agenda.
 - e. The Upper Valley Graduate School of Education will terminate its effort to be accredited by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) as the US Department of Education stripped ACICS of its authority to qualify students to be eligible for federal financial aid programs. It will pursue accreditation with the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. The issue with the ACICS also affects Salter School of Nursing and Allied Health, a non-degree career school. Both UVGSE and Salter are approved by the Veterans Education Services for Veterans benefits. Consistent with the US DoE action, the US Veterans Administration is giving institutions with ACICS accreditation 18 months to seek approval by other recognized accreditors.
 - f. Thank you to all members of the Executive Committee, several of whom adjusted calendars to participate in a special emergency meeting that resulted in approval for a plan to transition Daniel Webster College programs to Southern New Hampshire University. This action, along with NEASC and US DoE approval, enabled DWC students to continue their studies this year on the Nashua campus and receive federal financial aid.
 - g. Transcript requests have tripled due to the closing of Mount Washington College, formerly Hesser College.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.